TAPE NO. 43

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NARRATOR Kathrine Garland

INTERVIEWER Phyllis Lotz

PLACE Central Ave., Buellton

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Interview with Kathryn Lauritzen Garland
Date of Interview: 4 March 1985
Interviewer: Phyllis Lotz
Transcriber: Phyllis Lotz
Begin Tape 1, Side 1

PL: Introduction

Tell me about your grandparents and parents.

Garland: My father was born in Watsonville, California, son of Peter Lauritzen and Maria Lindlad Laurtizen. My mother was Astrid Franluca Walker, who came to Watsonville at the age of 16 from Denmark and met Delholger Laurtizen, my father, and they were married in Watsonville in 1909. In 1910 they decided to come to the Santa Ynez Valley where my father's uncle was a land salesman, having come down from Salinas as a scout to determine where to put a new Danish village. Dad bought acreage for dry farming in the valley where Buellton is now. Times were tough, so they moved into a little old house, no windows, one three legged table, no water. He had 4 horses and the years were very bad. When they came from Watsonville, my older brother was nine months old. They came into Los Olivos on the narrow gauge railroad where Dad's uncle, Mads Freez picked them up and brought them into what is now Solvang. Back to Dad's uncle, Mads Freez, who every body knew as he was the land salesman, had a big Hanes car, and he took people around to show them the land and today they are called real estate agents. After moving to their new home, I was born on Sept 17, 1913. My next brother Peter Lauritzen was born in 1916,

and my youngest brother, Edgar was born in 1920. I was born at the lying in hospital on the Duff Ranch. Peter was delivered at home. My mid-wife was Miss Cook and a lot of the old timers will remember Miss Cook. The doctor for Peter was Dr. Luton and the doctor for Edgar was Edgar Smith, as Mother had no name for this baby and she named him for the doctor.

PL: On the Duff Ranch, hospital, who was the doctor?

Garland: Only the midwife, Miss Cook. In those days, there was no doctor available. for my brother, Peter. I don't know where Dr. Luton lived but he had an office in Santa Barbara. Edgar Daniel Smith was the first doctor who had an office in the Valley and after that we had Dr. Hanze.

PL: Tell me about the little house your parents came to.

Garland: The house was already here. There was nothing in the area except the Buell Ranch, but this little house was here, that was it. I don't know why Dad chose this parcel of land. The horse farm on Hwy. 246, called West Winds was called No. 13, and the sand always blew there and Dad said No. 13 was no good, you could not raise any thing. It (Lauritzen property) went from about Willemsen's to Amby's, south side of the road about a mile west of Ave. of Flags 15 now. It was just sand and would blow and blow. As a child, I remember that. The Reece's lived down there just before you turn into the Lotz place. Bob Mathiesen built a house back there,

that was the old Milt Reece place. Milton and his Dad never did anything. They lived in a little shack there. I remember the original Budd and Bodine store, where Parkway Market is now. Milton and his Dad would come into the store, Milt was a big guy like John Wayne, and his Dad was a little, tiny guy. Milt with his big cigar would hang on the counter and talk with Al Bodine every single morning. I don't know how they did that and worked. There was a Mrs. Reece but no one ever saw her. In later years there was a Dr. and Mrs. Thomas who moved into Ballard and their daughter, I can't remember her name, married Milt and they moved to Montana. The place across from the Reece's was the Pete and Laurence Amby place. Pete married Martha. The Mortensen place, where the Lotz live now, they raised turkeys and we would go out there as kids and they were very hospitable but frugal. We got out there in a buggy and with horse. Then there was the old Fred Larsen place. Mrs. Larsen would carry Tim Larsen, he was a big baby, all the way down from Larsen's to visit Mom at the farm. I was a baby then, a couple months difference in age. When it was time to leave, Mom would set me in my apple box buggy and parasol, at the big fence, and I was happy, and Mom would walk with Mrs. Larsen and help carry that big Larsen baby back home. When Mom got back, and incidentally, we had lots of wild pigs in those days, the hired man was holding me and scolded my Mother

saying, "Mrs. Lauritzen, you set this darling little girl next to that high fence, where she could stick her little hand through and one of those wild pigs could have bitten her!" It scared my Mother to death. They would round up these wild pigs and use them for meat.

PL: What about the De La Cuesta family as neighbors?

Garland: Sam De La Cuesta's wife, Eileen, was my teacher at the old yellow school (Jonata), I think just after Evelyn Merrill (Buell), and then Eileen married Sam and they had this baby Elinita. I remember Elinita as a little baby. I remember Sam's father, Edwardo coming into the grocery store. They lived in the adobe, Sam and Eileen built a house to the west of the adobe (on Santa Rosa Road). My dad was raised with a silver spoon in his mouth, his Dad was a big real estate man in Watonsville, and they had Chinese to help. Dad went to high school for one week, when his father asked him to stay out of school for a week or so to direct the Chinese in picking the cherries and he never went back to high school. But my Dad was a very well thought of, and an educated gentleman, he read books constantly We could ask Dad any question and he knew the answer. Our farm was located from the now River Grove trailer Park to the hill where Fredrico's Restaurant is. All there was in Buellton then was Laurence Thompson's garage over where Pea Soup Andersen's is now, that was all. When the garage burned down he built the building where Ellen's

Pancakes is now, and there was a little house up here under the oak trees, (removed when Hwy. 246 was widened). I have to tell you this,...my Mother was very young, she was 20 when she came here, and 16 when she came to this country with an older brother. She went to work for a florist in Watsonville, then married Dad. She came to this area with a new baby, and there was nothing. She was scared to death when Pop went into the fields. Four cowboys would come by for water from our big tank, she would run into the house. These four cowboys were the Buell brothers, Rufus,Jr., Walter, Odin, and Glenn. I can remember when they had their cattle drives, bringing the cattle along the road, through streams, all the way to Gaviota. This memory is very vivid! The Buell boys were all very different: Rufus,Jr., was the oldest, Walter was next, then Odin, and Glenn was the youngest, and had firery red hair, and I remember when he was courting Al Bodine's sister Emma. I can still see her, she had on the most gorgeous taffeta dress. The Bodines lived over there next to the store and Emma lived with them. She had come out from Pittsburg and soon this big 'ol cowboy was coming by. I would be playing with Helen Bodine, Al's daughter, and we would say, "Isn't she beautiful?" I remember when Odin brought his wife home from Georgia, this southern gal, Josephine. I remember at Christmas, she had on the most gorgeous gray coat with a great big Poinsetta on

her gray hat.

PL: It must have been difficult for people from the city with many advantages to come to this little farming community?

Garland: In my day the Christensen's came from the east and the Fred Larsen's came from the east and the Iversen's, who owned property where the Willensen's are now, my folks, the Nielsen's came from Texas to start this community of Solvang. We were all baptized at Atterdag which was the church then. Conformation there. At the age of 12, I started dancing, Axel Nielsen started a dance club in the old Dania Hall, my older brother and I went.

PL; You went to the Jonata school located east on Hwy. 246, and who were your teachers?

Garland: Yes, and my teachers were Evelyn Merrill, who became Mrs. Walter Buell, Eileen De La Cuesta, and Henrietta Dyer, it was a one room school, with all the grades. Rows of desks and a wood stove. At Christmas time, we had a party with a big tree with candles all lit, and our teacher, Hennrietta Dyer, who was a large woman, had on the Santa Claus suit when she caught fire, her cotton caught fire and she was severely burned but she lived. I have a picture of the old yellow school house to show you, and this one (showing a photo) was taken when we had our high school reunion. This fellow is Ed Christensen who lived down west of town, where they had a dairy (now Twin Oaks tract). Here is Frank Giorgi,

from the Giorgi, of Nojoqui Ranch. Inga Mortensen was another. We had ninety people back last year, we graduated in 1931. Others were Tom Petersen, Albert Petersen, who I had not seen since I was a child, and Leonard Petersen. These men were Andy Petersen's uncles. We asked Clara Nielsen Petersen to come to the reunion, but she said, "I did not attend," she had started to work in the store at age 13.

PL: Did you finish all 8 grades at the yellow school?

Garland: No, we moved down here to this school where the Buellton post office in mow. I was trying to think, the earthquake I was trying to think, the earthquake was in 1925. So I think we moved to the new school in 1929. We all carried our books to the new school. Jeannette Lyons was our teacher and Buck Jensen was another teacher. The library was down stairs in the basement and two rooms in the up stairs main part. That was the Public Library down stairs and where the Buellton Community Service District office is now was our school library. Then we all went to high school and the bus driver was Jack Ross.

PL: Your father dry farmed, now what were the crops he raised?

Garland: Lima beans and hay one year but it was so bad, that was the year I was born, 1913. My folks charged their groceries at the old Nielsen and Petersen Market in Solvang. The owed just for staples: flour, sugar, etc.

My Dad owed $600.00 to the store. Mother would crawl on her hands and knees along the crop path, trying to find a few beans to cook. That was the night I was born. They made $40.00 that year. That was it!. To me it is such a hair raising tale, I get goose pimples when I think about it. And they boarded the school teacher and Dad's sister came out to help. My Mother was so strong, and very efficient. One of seven children in Denmark. Her father sold fish from a fish wagon. Her mother had varicose veins and all my Mother remembers is her mother sitting on the window seat with her legs up because in those days they didn't know what to do. My Mother would never have had stockings unless she knitted them, long black stockings for school. She would knit these stockings going and coming from school. the whole family depended on her because she was so efficient. She was 16 when she decided to come to America and they had to let her come but she was made to bring her elder brother with her. They came to live with an aunt and uncle in Watsonville. There is a little shell of a house up on a hill west of Buellton near Norman William's home where my Mother's brother lived for a time, he never married and just lived there. He worked for Andy Petersen for $2.00 a day for years and years. He built this little shack and I remember we all moved the stuff up there for him.

PL: You say you remember the 1925 earthquake that hit

Santa Barbara so hard?

Garland: Oh, definitely! My Mother had taken my younger brother to St. Francis Hospital which was an all brick building. He was five years old and Mother was told he had to lay flat in bed. She was sitting in the room on the third floor writing a letter. My brother had had a hernia operation, when the walls started to move, she realized it was an earthquake so she grabbed the child and ran out, the stair cases and elevators were in the center of the building. She went down the stairs and found herself in the basement, back up she went.

End of Side 1, Tape 1

Begin Side 2, Tape 1

Dr. Hanze had gotten scared and had jumped from the second story to the cement below and broke a leg. At the time, I was cooking for Dad when it hit, the old tank we had in back literally sprayed water all over the yard. My Dad was in the field with his horses, my uncle Pete Jensen had a garage over there. Everyone was coming through town saying Santa Barbara was flat on the ground. Dad got the old Monroe out and we took off for Santa Barbara. We got there in 55 minutes, went up to the hospital. They had the Army out there at the entrances and no one could go in or out. We found out

that friends of our's in Santa Barbara had taken Edgar and Mom down on Bath Street and we found both of them in the back yard, Edgar on a cot. The hospital was destroyed.

PL: What did you do after high school? Garland: I went into

Garland: I went into nurses training at St. Francis, and graduated in 1933.

Two years. In house training in Los Angeles for three months. There were four of us from the Valley who went into nursing at the same time. Kathrine Ontiveros, Josephine Arbolyte, Barbara Smith and me. Just two of us graduated. I nursed in Santa Maria, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, then went to work in a doctor's office, Dr. Clark.

PL: Tell me about your brothers.

Garland: My older brother, Fred went to school and became a dentist before he passed away.

Brother Pete farmed. George Petersen had the biggest flower fields, on Buell Flat, then Alfred Jacobsen was next coming west on the flat, he has the next biggest field, and Pete was the next largest field. But when it comes time to pick, you have to pick, and George got the pickers, then Alfred got the next bunch, and Pete was more or less left out. Pete was very meticulous so he decided to go into some other business and went to Dental Lab. school in Los Angeles and has been in that a business ever since, in Escandido.

PL: What flowers were being grown then?

Garland: Zinnias, asters, in those days and located on Buell Flat and all across into Buellton.

PL: Describe to me the way Buellton looked in your high school days?

Garland: There was no Ave. of Flags, the highway went right through town. From the snaps I showed you the celebration and barbecue, the pavement from Los Angeles and Lompoc met and they had this celebration in the early 1920's. The road west to Lompoc was just dirt. I remember Bob Anderson coming to school when they first came here. The original store was there and owned by Bill Budd. My older brother and I would carry a glass quart of milk to the Budd store and get 30 cents a month. Then Al Bodine came up and he took over the store where Andersen's is now. They started the post office there. They were going to name this community BUELL but found out there was another town by that name so they added TON. There was a garage and service station catty corner from Budd and Bodine, K. Moller owned that. My Mother's youngest brother came from Denmark and went to work in a garage and lived with us in the house we built, now the Smith house. We built that house when I was 12. My uncle went to work for K. Moller in the garage although he was a civil engineer.

PL: Tell me about this house that was built when you were 12?

Garland: My Mother got sick, she had worked so hard all her life trying to keep Dad from being lazy, she got TB She had to go to bed for a year. The only way they could manage this was to send for my Mother's younger sister, Erna.

A man named Block built this house for my folks. They went down to L.A. and bought all the lumber. He built it for $3,500, in 1925.

PL: What about your Father's mother?

Garland: She moved to Solvang with her two daughters. and lived where the hardware store is now on Mission Drive. They moved that little house back two streets later on. My Grand father had died and that is why they moved here. They lived two doors from the Marcus Nielsen house which is now the Olive Store on Mission Drive. I remember when there were fine houses on Mission Drive, Copenhagen was then called Main Street. Dania Hall was at the end of the street, then the old laundry, and the American Legion building where we had dances. The Post Office was further east. The American Legion building had just one room.

PL: What can you tell me about your uncle, Mad Frees?

Garland: He had a hotel in Salinas. Old man Gregersen, Hornsyld later Post Master, were sent north, and Uncle was sent here to look for land for a Danish community. Uncle got his way, that the community would be here in what is now Solvang. He lived next door to my Grandmother and they

built identical houses on Mission Drive. The old grammar school was on Alisal and Mission. The school was where Denmarket Square is now. The Blocks were up at the corner of Atterdag and Copenhagen. He had a blacksmith shop across from his house. He shoed all the horses and no one knew he could paint until after his wife died and he had retired and took up painting. After he died, his work has became famous. The red house that is now a gift shop on First Street where the big oak tree is in the middle of the street, was the Hornsyl's home.

PL: How did you meet your husband?

Garland: I met him in 1935. He was working in Santa Barbara and was a advertizing manager for the (Santa Barbara) News Press. We went together for three years. I did not want him to come up here as his temperment was too much like my Mothers. My Mother was domineering and so was Tom. I knew there was a garage opening but I did not tell him, But he found out on his, own and came up here with 12 dollars worth of tools. Andersen's, where the Pub is now, was the old Moller Garage. The long building that Bill Olivera has now was the garage that Tom rented and started his garage business. That was in 1937. He took McHughs after high school and was a fine mechanic, it was his love. We built the garage on the south side of Hwy. 246 and Ave. of Flags in 1941. R.J. Batty was always talking to Tom. Tom learned a lot from

R.J. Batty, he was a smart man. He talked to Tom and said, "Why don't we all pay to have our building moved back to accomodate the widening of the road so that they will keep the highway going through town?" I think it cost Tom $1800 to build the shop and even more to move it back. But we kept the highway through town for a few years. Eventually it by passed the town. The businesses could make a living with the highway through town. There was the Seaside Station near and the ice house where Forrest Hibbits lives now. They made ice there for sale. Knudsen's Cafe was where all the shops are across from Andersen's, on the west side of the street. Then there was the Fewslew Building, a restaurant and houses he rented out. Max Fewslew built a place for a restaurant but the Andersen's came in so Max built a restaurant where the north parking lot for Andersen's is now. They had a law suit going because Amdersen's did not like a sign Max had made to advertize his restaurant. It meant a lot to the town to have the traveling public going through town. Mr. Batty was the instigator who got water into town, before we all had wells and holding tanks. The original reservior is up here to the north on the hill.

PL: Tell me about the Buells?

Garland: Walter and Evelyn were up on Central Ave. Odin and Josephine, Glenn and his wife lived there too, but Rufus s was out on west Hwy. 246. They bought the old

Skinner place and moved the house over here back of Hwy. 246 on the alley where Emma lived out her last years. I remember Emily Buell, the mother of the boys, and there was also a daughter, Gertrude. Linus Buell was the son of R.T. by his first wife, they lived up Hwy. 101 in a home behind the stock yards north of Buellton. Gertrude was lonesome because there were so few girls her age here. My Mother was young and Gertrude would walk down through the bean fields and spend the day with my Mother. Gertrude married Oliver Bumpus but she died during the flu epidemic of 1919. Oliver worked across the river on a ranch. They both got pneumonia, but he recovered, but she died. They lived on a diary ranch on Santa Rosa Road.

PL: Speaking of dairies here in Buellton, where did the milk go from the farm?

Garland: There was a pick up truck that came every day from Santa Barbara. Ken FitzGerald drove the truck and I would hitch a ride with him many times to get back and forth to Santa Barbara. My older brother worked for 2 years at the dairy, Andrews and Campbell, when Fred was just out of high school, which would have been in 1927. He helped in the dairy and they had a big separator. A young man came to room with us, a Dr. Lindberg and he persuaded my Mother that she should send Fred to dental school. Dr. Lindberg had a office at the corner of Alisal and Copenhagen where the candy store is now.

That was John Frame's real estate office, and the doctor rented a little space there. He was the first dentist in Solvang.

PL: Tell me about your children?

Garland: My daughter was born in 1941 her name is Sherry Aquapace Bermel, and four and a half years later I had Martha Lucy. Martha is in the hardwood mill business and Sherry works for Crocker Bank on State St., Santa Barbara. Our Martha was named for Martha Durfey who was married to Major Durfey and living in Santa Barbara. She was a neighbor of the Garlands on Anacapa St. Mrs. Garland had four boys, two years apart. Tom was the oldest. Aunt Matty could not have any children so Tom was her pet. He would fill his brothers hats with water then run over to Aunt Matty's and she would hide him in the cupboard. Aunt Matty was a dear little lady who taught school. She would come here to visit us and wear all her clothes on her body so she could put avocados and oranges in her suitcase, for us. This was during the depression. When our Martha was 2 days old, Tom went down to get Aunt Matty and brought her up, and she presented us with a cheque for $1,000 for Martha's education because we had named her Martha. We never knew this until that day. My girls went to the same schools I went to, here in Buellton and Santa Ynez.

PL: What are your grand children's names?

Garland: Laurie, Katie and John. They all live in Santa Barbara.

That was why I bought this motor home so we can go on little trips.

End of Side 2, Tape 1

Begin Side 1, Tape 2

PL: What can you tell me about the Anton Andersen family?

Garland: I remember this boy coming from New York, coming to school in shirt and knee pants and all the farm boys had on overalls. He was made fun of because he was a city kid. Anton Andersen opened this little coffee shop and he always wore a white apron and he would come to the door and greet everyone with a, how do you do, have some of our pea soup. He was very hospitable. Juliette stayed in the background. I remember going in there and they had split peas in a big pile, the boxes were stacked by the front door so people could buy the makings for the soup. A very small restaurant. The pea soup mix cost 35 cents and had the receipe on the box. Then they built the hotel and called it the Buelltmore. They had a big garden area and the hotel as you walked in the coffee shop entrance now and up stairs were the hotel rooms. The lobby was where the bar and wine shop is now. They had all men waiters. They were prospering. Rosaline Russell, the movie actress stayed there on her wedding night. Lots of famous people

stayed there. Mickey Rooney married Ava Gardner at the church in Ballard. The Andersen's son, Robert went to Stanford, and was involved in a very bad accident in an airplane with Martin and Osa Johnson. The plane crashed and the Johnson's were killed but Robert survived, he was brought to Cottage Hospital. I saw him when he married Rosemary and he was a completely different person after that accident. His face was so different. Rodabough bought the restaurant from Robt. Andersen. The Rodabough girl married Chip Hanly, son of Ric and Jane Hanly.

PL: Can you tell me anything about Robert Batty?

Garland: He bought this land from my Dad, he had come here from Santa Barbara with his daughter Estelle, and son Robert. Robert was the same age as my brother, Fred. Mr. Batty was sort of retired when they came but he was interested in civic affairs. Robert Batty Jr, and Fred Brown started the River Grove Tailor Park.

PL: What do you remember about the depression?

Garland: We seemed to have plenty, we raised vegetables, we did not expect much. We had a cow and chickens, Mother canned hundreds of jars of vegetables and fruit. So we really never suffered and we all shared. If we killed a pig, everyone helped and we shared. The neighbors did the same.

PL: What sort of entertainments were there here in early days?

Garland: We had dances at Dania Hall and then at the Veterans Building after it was built. I remember Ellen and Ivan Sorensen had formed a band with their five children. We knew them before they were married. Ellen took two weeks off after each child was born. Where ever they played as a band we would go to hear and dance.

PL: Thank you, Mrs. Garland, for this interview.

Garland: I remember the Willemsen's coming into town in a little old Model A Ford. Jake and Jeannette worked at the dairy. They have earned every thing they have got. They worked very hard there.

My father died in 1973 I remember because my husband was buried four years after my father was buried. Tom died in 1977.

Mad Frees built this house for my aunt. Mother used to say that we lived on the wrong side of the tracks. Nothing will ever happen to this side of the road. We have lots of new restaurants and motels and hotels. The Rancho de Maria is new, a housing development. I can forsee that this valley will not be affordable to live in. Some of my friends have left. It is horse country and you can't afford land.

PL: Thank you again.